REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claims 19 and 21 is respectfully acknowledged. These claims, however, have not been rewritten in independent form at this time since, as set forth in detail hereinbelow, it is respectfully submitted that their parent claim 1, as amended, also recites allowable subject matter.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the radiation image radiographing apparatus is an apparatus for mammography which radiographs a patient in an upright position, and that the subject platform supports the subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position, as supported by the disclosure in Fig. 1.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully submitted that the amendments are clarifying in nature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 1 be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 2,680,199 (previously cited "Abel"); claims 4, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Abel and USP 5,177,778 (previously cited "Tsurumaki et al"); claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Abel and USP 5,737,386 (previously cited "Strawder"); and claims 15, 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Abel and USP 6,934,361 (newly cited "Ohkoda") These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, a radiation image radiographing apparatus for mammography is provided which radiographs a patient in an upright position. As recited in amended claim 1, the apparatus comprises a radiation source; a subject platform for supporting a subject so as to face the subject to the radiation source while the patient is in the upright position; and a plurality of supporting platforms for supporting a radiation image information detecting member for detecting radiation image information based on radiation transmitted through the subject, wherein the plurality of supporting platforms are positioned on an opposite side of

the subject platform with respect to the radiation source. As recited in claim 1, moreover, the plurality of supporting platforms are individually movable from positions at fixed distances from the radiation source to be evacuated from a position in which the supporting platform faces the radiation source.

By contrast, Abel discloses a radiographing apparatus that radiographs a patient in a recumbent position, and it is respectfully submitted that Abel does not disclose, teach or suggest a radiographing apparatus for mammography that radiographs a patient in an upright position. And it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention and Abel have clearly different structures for effecting examination in the different positions.

In addition, it is again respectfully submitted that the shelves 41, 42 and 43 of Abel do not at all correspond to supporting platforms that are individually movable to be evacuated from a position in which the supporting platform faces the radiation source, as recited in independent claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that with the structure of Abel, in which the patient is radiographed in the recumbent position, there is no danger of the patient striking the supporting platforms of the apparatus thereof. By contrast, as explained on page 9 of the specification of the present

application, the supporting platforms can interfere with the patient with the structure of an apparatus for mammography in the upright position. Thus, by making the platforms capable of being evacuated individually from a position in which the supporting platform faces the radiation source, the supporting platforms can be evacuated when not needed so as not to interfere with the patient.

It is respectfully submitted that since the patient is recumbent according to Abel, the problem encountered by the mammography apparatus of the claimed present invention for radiographing an upright patient as described above is not even encountered in Abel.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no reason to make the shelves 41-43 of Abel individually movable to be evacuated from a position in which the supporting platform faces the radiation source.

Indeed, although the Examiner suggests that the shelves 41-43 could be individually evacuated "by any means," it is respectfully pointed out that according to Abel the shelves 41-43 are "fixedly interconnected in vertical alignment by side bars 44."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, and each of claims 4-10, 13-17 and 19-22 depending therefrom,

clearly patentably distinguishes over Abel, taken singly or in combination with any of the other cited references, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Avenue - 16th Floor
New York, New York 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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